



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS, INC.

UVALDE, TEXAS, August 3, 2005—Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc. was awarded a \$100,000 Housing Preservation Grant. Funding will be used to rehabilitate 16 owner-occupied housing units. Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc. will combine these grants with funds from Middle Rio Grande FUTURO Communities, Inc. and Community Services Agency of South Texas, Inc., to serve as many eligible homeowners as possible. To highlight this funding, a ceremonial check will be presented to Jorge Botello, Executive Director for Community Council of Southwest Texas. The event will be held Monday, August 8, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., in the Main Office, located at 713 East Main Street, Uvalde, Texas.

“USDA Rural Development is very pleased to be able to provide housing rehabilitation funding for rural Texans,” said Daniel. “It is our goal to ensure rural residents are afforded an opportunity to live in decent housing that meets basic health and safety standards and provides the benefits of energy efficient features.”

The funds will be used to assist families with essential home repairs in Dimmit, Maverick, Uvalde, and Zavala counties. The repairs for these 16 families will include structural repairs, new roofs, replacement windows, siding, insulation and interior alterations. Funds may also be used for structural additions to eliminate overcrowding or to remove health hazards and other modifications if necessary to insure handicapped accessibility. Priority will be given to the elderly, large families, and families in structures deemed environmentally substandard.

The purpose of the Housing Preservation Grant program is to promote continued economic development in rural communities by making grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of low and very-low income housing. Grants are competitive and are made available in areas where there is a concentration of need.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information, please contact the Uvalde Local Office at (830) 278-9503, Ext. 4, or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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